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October 15, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S. W. – Room TWB-204
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: *Ex parte*, CC Docket No. 96-149, Verizon Petition for Forbearance from the
Prohibition of sharing Operating, Installation, and Maintenance Functions Under
Section 53.203(a)(2) of the Commission's Rules

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, October 14, 2003, I met with Lisa Zaina, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein. The purpose of the meeting was to review AT&T's position in the above-captioned proceeding. Specifically, we discussed (1) Verizon's request that the Commission take action that Section 10(d) of the Communications Act expressly forbids, (2) Verizon's failure to produce any credible evidence that the OI&M safeguard has imposed any costs on Verizon, and (3) that no matter how costly compliance with the OI&M safeguards is claimed to be, so long as there is a "strong connection" between those safeguards and the protection of long distance competition, they are "necessary" within the meaning of Section 10 and forbearance may not be granted. Each of these issues is discussed fully in the attached written ex parte submissions previously filed with the Commission.

Consistent with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, I am filing one electronic copy of this notice and request that you place it in the record of the above-captioned proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Simone".

ATTACHMENTS

cc: S. Bergmann
L. Zaina